

Speedy Accountants

GEOF. DUKE can win the G.T.T. race with a speed of more than 100 miles per hour. Donald Campbell rides the water at 204 miles per hour.

These are records which thrill the crowds and delight the heart of the sporting public.

The Accountant's mind, however, runs along more mundane channels. His thoughts on his little (large?) world are always prefaced by "how much?" How much saved, how much does it cost, how much can you reduce the stocks by? There are occasions, however, when "how soon" enters into his vocabulary. How soon can the stores be issued? How soon is next pay day? (why pin this on the Accounts)? How soon can the accounts be completed? How soon can the bills be got out?

This latter is not a cricket term, it does not relate to the batting side. It relates—wails of chagrin from the consumer—to the speed at which the consumer's meter can be read and the account sent asking him to pay his debts to the Board. We've said to the consumer's chagrin, we also say to the accountant's delight.

No. 1 Sub-Area Accounts (Derby House) has beaten all comers, by achieving the feat of reducing the interval between the reading of the meter and rendering (sending out) the account to a mere *three days*. We think it is time to congratulate No. 1 Billing Section in the Accountant's department, so take off your hats to the meter readers, collectors, billing clerks, machine operators and accountants who have achieved this record.

Editor's Note: We wish these fellows wouldn't send in our bill so quickly and then worry us to pay it the minute we've got it.

What Happens

Just what is involved in this operation of meter reading, billing and collection is illustrated stage by stage below and gives some idea of the administrative machinery required to maintain such a speed of turn-over.

It is indeed a tribute to Mr. A. M. Riley and his staff at Derby House that this work can be done in three days.

Outside

Meter Reader takes out book containing meter sheets.

Reads meter and enters consumption.

Returns meter book to office.

Office

Consumption checked.

Consumption calculated.

(a) at 4½d. per unit;

(b) at 1d. per unit.

Bills addressed by addressing machine.

Meter reading sheets and bills married to consumer's Ledger Card.

Bills, meter sheets and ledger cards passed to a/c. machine room.

Machine operators using keyboard accounting machines produce bill, enter total on ledger card and prepare a summary sheet in one operation.

Summary sheets are assessed for statistical purposes.

Bills and summary sheets proved for arithmetical summary.

Bills folded and enveloped.

Despatched for either hand or postal delivery.

Contact



COLD WORK AT THE FIRE (See page 58)

The Staff Magazine of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board

MARCH, 1956

MANWEB

THREEPENCE

NEW BOARD MEMBER



MR. H. Mason Bibby, M.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., who was recently appointed a part-time member of the Board by the Minister of Fuel and Power, was born in Liverpool and lives in the Wirral. He was educated at Oundle School and, afterwards, in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Liverpool.

In 1927 he joined the family firm of seed crushers and cattle food makers in Liverpool, where initially he was concerned with the steam power plant, but later became maintenance engineer, then chief engineer. He is now principally concerned with the long range development of the company's activities, both in Liverpool and in other parts of the British Isles.

Mr. Bibby has been a member of council of the Liverpool Engineering Society, a member of the Merseyside Electricity Load Spreading Committee, and a member of the North-West Fuel Efficiency Council. His principal

non-business activity is as a member of the University of Liverpool and several small committees connected with the building works of the University. He is also one of the Wallasey Embankment Commissioners and President of the Industrial Fire Protection Association of Great Britain.

During the war he was responsible for his company's security arrangements and that involved considerable dealings with personnel, which brought him into contact with many trade union officials, both in Liverpool and elsewhere in the country. For a time he was a member of the National Joint Industrial Council of the seed crushing and cattle food trades, and was a member of a committee negotiating wages and conditions for maintenance tradesmen in those industries.

UNIVERSITY COURSES

During the Easter Vacation the University of Liverpool Department of Extra-Mural Studies is arranging several courses designed to provide information regarding recent developments in fundamental science which have practical applications in industry.

From the 9th to 13th April there is a course on "Numerical Analysis and Digital Computing Machines." From the 8th to 13th April there is another course on "Fundamental Processes of Gaseous Discharges" (including spark and arc discharges) and the third course from the 15th to 21st April is on "Basic Principles of Nuclear Engineering."

The first course is non-residential at a fee of £4 4s. 0d. The last two are residential at an inclusive fee of £10 10s. 0d. each.



Contact

THE STAFF MAGAZINE OF THE
MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES ELECTRICITY BOARD

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No. 3

EDITORIAL

Electrical Ambassadors

THE interest shown by North Wales schools in the Board's Electrical Exhibition arranged in connection with the visit of U.N.I.P.E.D.E. delegates to Llandudno last September had its fruition in a ceremony at Connah's Quay Power Station last month when Mr. R. N. Pegg (Manager, No. 4 Sub-Area) made a number of presentations.

It will be remembered that some 600 local school children attended the Exhibition and were invited to write essays on what they had seen. There were more than 100 entries, and 16 finalists were present to see Mr. Pegg hand book tokens to four girls and two boys, the writers of the best six essays.

Mr. J. E. Evans (Station Superintendent) and Mr. H. N. Beenhan (Operations Efficiency Engineers) then conducted the children round and gave them a comprehensive picture of the inner workings of this modern power plant—the only steam operated power station in North Wales. As one of the guests was heard to remark—"a miracle of modern planning, staffed by most obliging gentlemen".

We feel that this unsolicited testimonial to the electricity supply industry was not uncalled for in view of the cordial atmosphere at Connah's Quay, and we feel sure that North Wales now has many more enthusiastic young ambassadors assisting our publicity and public relations.

The Magic of Science

— and the Fuel of the Future

IN connection with the proposed erection of a nuclear power station in the locality, a nuclear engineering exhibition was held at Bradwell, Essex, last month.

At the opening ceremony Mr. J. Eccles—formerly Chairman of this Board and now Deputy Chairman (Operation) of the C.E.A.—gave such a clear and simple explanation of the part that atomic energy will play in the future of this country that we are reporting his remarks fairly fully.

“I think it is common ground nowadays that science is playing, and is destined to play, an increasing role in our daily lives. The reason for this is simple enough—science enables five men to do the work of fifty and to do it with far less toil and sweat for the individual. But for science and its applications in engineering, in transport, in increased soil fertility, in medicine, we could not support 50 million people on this island.

Scientific Aids

Two hundred and fifty years ago the population was seven millions and without scientific aid it was difficult for even that number to keep body and soul together. A hundred years ago the population was 20 millions. At that time science was on the way in. To-day, we support nearly 50 millions with a much better standard of living, with greater comfort and more opportunities for leisure, just because, through the application of science, five men can do the work of fifty.

How is it that we are able to do this? What magic has science got that was not vouchsafed to mankind in earlier times?

The answer to those questions is many-sided, but the most fundamental thing that scientific knowledge enables us to do is to substitute mechanical power for human and animal brawn. On the farm we have the tractor, the lorry, the motor car, the harvester and the grain crusher. In the factory we have the machine tool and the mechanical handling equipment. In transport, there are the express train, the ocean-going liner and the aeroplane and, in the home, we have the vacuum cleaner, the washing machine and the automatic water-heater and much more.

In all these spheres each of us has been given ten pairs of hands and, when one adds the aids to soil fertility and food production, we begin to see how the transformation has taken place.

Coal and Oil

Up till now this alleviation of human toil, this multiplication of human effort, has been made possible by the use of coal and oil. To-day, coal is in short supply. Last year we imported nearly 12 million tons, at a cost of some £80 million.

Oil, at the moment, seems to be gushing out of the earth notably in the Middle East, but when one realises that the world's oil reserves are only about 5 per cent—one twentieth—of the world's coal reserves, it is clear that a

world shortage of oil will be upon us sooner than a world coal shortage.

In the meantime all our oil has to be imported and, although we get foreign currency for exported petrol and lubricating oil, it is a fact that oil is an item on the cost side of our balance of payments.

Electrical Growth

Perhaps the most striking thing about the use of mechanical power in recent times is the increasing proportion of it that is derived from electricity. The use of electricity has been doubling every ten years. Twenty years ago we were supplying only a quarter of the electricity that is being demanded to-day. If all goes well and our economic life continues to prosper in the way we all desire it to do, we shall, in ten years' time, need twice as much electricity as we are now using.

Now that amount of electricity cannot be produced from coal and oil if we are to leave enough of these fuels available for other uses. We shall need and shall use all the coal and oil we can get and can afford to pay for, and still we shall not have enough to produce all the electricity that the people will require.

Filling the Gap

It is very fortunate, in these circumstances, that this newest form of fuel—atomic fuel—has arrived in time to fill the gap and enable this country to maintain its population and its place as an industrial nation, and hence maintain its influence for good in world affairs.

And it is one of those fortunate coincidences, so rarely found in nature, that atomic energy can be most readily offered to the people in the form of electricity.

The Government have decided to use this energy not only to ensure our survival at home, but also to ensure our continued prosperity by enabling British manufacturers to be in the forefront in securing their share of world markets for these power plants.

The Central Electricity Authority has been given the duty of building and operating the atomic power stations that are necessary to keep us strong and free.

We plan to have at least twelve stations operating during the next ten years and after that the programme will expand in accordance with the need.

Siting

Coming down to detail, the conditions which make a site suitable for an atomic power station are a subsoil capable of bearing very heavy loads and an abundance of easily accessible water. We do not require extensive railway lines or sidings because the total amount of fuel to be transported to and from the station is quite small. One ton of natural uranium will be equal to 10,000 tons of coal.

We shall require reasonably good roads and we shall also require a supply of fresh water. It is important too for the economic working of the station that it should be so located that the cost of transmitting the electricity to the point where it will be used is not excessive. The best positions are on estuaries or on the coast far from the coalfields, yet not far from large centres of population.

It is a great pity that atomic energy was first released as an instrument of destruction. This has, quite naturally, associated it

NORTHWICH DEFEATED

In a preliminary round of the British Electricity Ambulance Centre Seventh National Competition (Merseyside and North Wales District) at Connah's Quay Power Station last month, Northwich District first aid team were placed third to Percival Lane Power Station (1) and Connah's Quay Power Station (2).

The Northwich team was the same as that which last year narrowly failed to win the national championship: Messrs. L. Smith, J. R. Boden, B. Livesley and L. C. Hampson.

PANTO OUTING

Employees of No. 1 Sub-Area numbering 80 had an enjoyable outing to a Liverpool pantomime "Babes in the Wood" at the Royal Court Theatre on 14th February. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Harry Turner (Welfare Officer).

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE (cont.)

in men's minds with danger. But we believe that a power station, such as we propose to build at Bradwell, will be as safe as an ordinary chemical factory, many of which exist to-day in the built-up areas of our cities and towns. The kind of process we propose to adopt is inherently safe, and we shall take great pains to build safety into every detail of it.

We want to construct a station in Bradwell district because the physical and economic conditions are so suitable. As people with a keen sense of public duty we shall be anxious to produce a station that will be an asset to the locality in both the economic and aesthetic senses. There can be no doubt that the presence of a station will bring trade to Bradwell and district."



What is Ohm without a Volt?

VOICES FROM SHOTTON

Mr. W. Marrow, formerly of Shotton Staff, flew back to Nairobi on 28th January after a spell of leave.

He took with him a tape recording machine on which he recorded messages and greetings from members of the staff at Shotton to Mr. S. B. Brodey, formerly Commercial Assistant and now working in Mombassa.

Mr. Marrow takes up a new appointment when he returns to East Africa and we wish him every success in this new undertaking.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Llandudno—a town which brings summer pleasure to thousands of holiday makers—is now helping to provide winter warmth by the manufacture of electric blankets.

At a factory in Back Madoc Street, between 600 and 700 electric blankets are turned out each week for both home and overseas markets. The premises are a branch of the Hotpoint Company who also have a factory at Llandudno Junction.

NEW SUB-AREA MANAGER

Mr. J. W. Kellett (Deputy Chief Commercial Officer at Board Headquarters) has been appointed Manager of No. 3 Sub-Area to succeed Mr. T. Coates, who is now Deputy Chairman of the North Western Electricity Board.

Born in Liverpool, Mr. Kellett was educated at Merchant Taylors School, and commenced his service with Liverpool Corporation in 1916 when he joined the Costs Section of the City Treasurer's Department.

After war service with the Royal Flying Corps and the Middlesex Regiment, he returned to Liverpool Corporation and in 1928 was appointed head of the Costs, Wages and Stores Section of Electricity Accounts. In 1935 he became the Commercial Assistant to Mr. P. J. Robinson (then City Electrical Engineer), and at Vesting Date was Chief Commercial Assistant to the Liverpool Electricity Undertaking.

ELECTRICAL SLAVES

Remarking that the slave trade was a thing of the past, Mr. James Rankin (Deputy Chairman) speaking at the 21st birthday celebration luncheon of the Wallasey Branch of the Electrical Association for Women at New Brighton, said that there was, however, a regiment of slaves available at every electricity switch. The slave of the lamp was always there when needed and at an average price of only 30 per cent more than pre-war, electricity was the cheapest commodity on the market to-day.

Mr. Rankin said that as sellers of electricity, the Board were keenly interested in the activities of the E.A.W. "Your success as a



Mr. J. W. Kellett

From Vesting Day until October, 1948, Mr. Kellett was acting Chief Commercial Officer and Assistant Sub-Area Liaison Officer to Manweb.

growing and thriving organisation cannot but mean the development of a still greater interest in the uses to which electricity can be put in the home and in many other places."

He also referred to the part the Association could play in helping the housewife to help the Government in their tremendous task of reducing atmospheric pollution. Electrical appliances produced no smoke, and a time would come when coal fires—although traditional—would become a rarity. "Tradition or no tradition," went on Mr. Rankin, "we must progress, and to my mind progress and electricity are inseparably linked."



Well over 3,000 people saw the home laundry and cooking demonstrations arranged by Manweb at Southport last month.

Top: Laundry demonstration in progress.



Centre: To show the large capacity of an electric cooker, eight two pound loaves were baked in a Jackson model, and were brought out one by one by Manweb demonstrators.



Below: Philip Harben was the chief attraction and here he is seen initiating the audience into the secrets of tossing the pancake. "It will be disastrous" he told them, "if you try and toss it before it is cooked sufficiently."

The T.V. Cook again draws the crowds

Top: A more advanced dish which the T.V. Cook made was a cheese soufflé, which he is here proudly showing to the audience. Samples of all his cooking were handed round for tasting.



Centre: Miss Parr exhibits one of the six 20-lb. turkeys which were cooked and distributed to local charitable Homes in the Southport area. These birds were provided by the Jackson cooker people.



Below: After the stage shows the Exhibition Hall came into its own, and very good business was done. On the first day the Exhibition was declared open by the Mayor and here the Mayoress is receiving a bouquet from Miss Shirley Blaydon.



Explosion at Pumpfields

AT 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd February, an explosion occurred at Pumpfields Substation in the incoming cable box of a 33-kV reactor connected in a feeder from Clarence Dock generating station. The box was blown off, cooling tubes, punctured, escaping oil ignited and the roof set on fire. The substation—originally a generating station—contained four 12.5-MVA, 33/6.6-kV transformers, four 33-kV reactors, 33-kV switchgear, 6.6-kV switchgear, rotary converting plant and a mercury-arc rectifier. The building is approximately 220 feet long, 50 feet wide and 60 feet high.

The substation attendant, realising that the fire was quite beyond the capacity of the portable

CO₂ equipment, succeeded in opening all circuit breakers and called the fire brigade, which arrived within five minutes. The Pumpfields circuits at Clarence Dock and Lister Drive generating station were opened to isolate the substation electrically so that fire fighting could commence.

The fire, which was being fed with oil from the damaged reactor, was very intense and in a few minutes the roof was blazing furiously. The fire brigade had it under control by 6.30 p.m. but the roof continued to smoulder and burn in places and was not completely extinguished until 4 p.m. the next day, Friday. About half of the roof was destroyed and the remainder badly damaged. Fire damage to plant was confined to two reactors

and relatively minor damage to one 12.5-MVA transformer, but damage by water was very extensive. The only means of fighting the roof fire in a roof some 60 feet in height was by hoses, both inside and outside the building, so the whole of the plant was drenched and the basement flooded.

Square mile affected

At the time of the mishap, Pumpfields was supplying 25 MW to the 6-kV system, 10 MW to Lister Drive and 10 MW to Messrs. J. Bibby & Sons Ltd. at 33-kV. About one square mile of Liverpool was temporarily without electricity supply. By 6.45 p.m. all substations which could be fed from alternative sources were alive, but two 6-kV rings which were connected only to Pumpfields could not be supplied until 8.45 a.m. on the Friday, after some 6-kV cables had been cut and five joints made. Messrs. Bibbys were given a supply of 2 MW at 6-kV from Thursday evening until their 33-kV supply was restored after jointing a 33-kV cable at 5.30 p.m. on Friday. It was not possible to commence cable jointing in the Pumpfields basement until near midnight on the Thursday although the Fire Brigade used all available pumps to clear the water.

Future plans

Two of the four reactors will be recommissioned in the near future and two of the four 12.5-MVA transformers. The 33-kV and 6.6kV switchgear is of considerable age and water penetrated into the compound and oil filled busbar and current

transformer chambers. In view of its age and condition, the switchgear will not be repaired and temporary arrangements, including the temporary provision of some 6-kV switchgear, are in hand pending the reconstruction of the substation on a different plan.

Credit is due to all those who assisted in the restoration of supplies and in work under conditions in the damaged substation. The assistance of manufacturers' representatives in examining and assessing the condition of plant is also greatly appreciated.

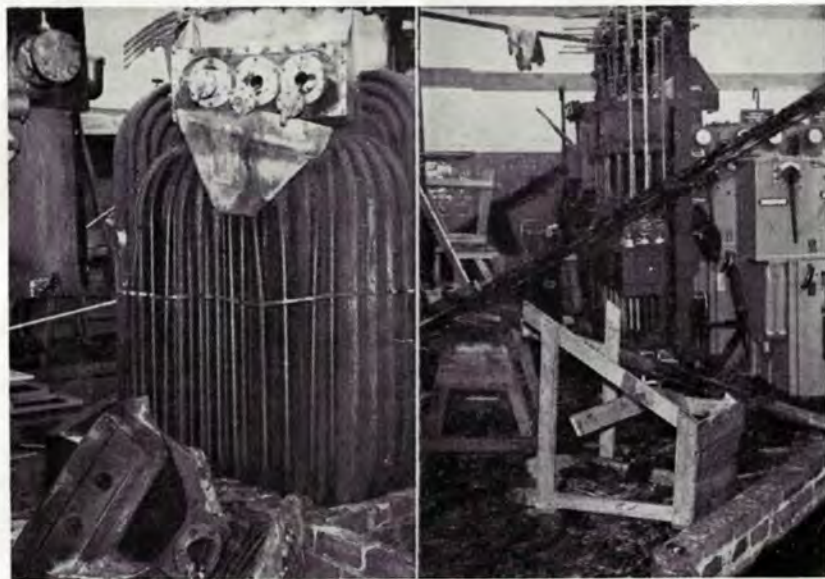
ALL NIGHT SERVICE

Mr. Harry Turner, No. 1 Sub-Area's Welfare Officer, had a hectic weekend as a result of the above incident.

Operating from the canteen kitchen at Love Lane and ably assisted by Mr. A. Nuttall, Mrs. A. Crawford and Mrs. L. McCormick, he was responsible for a 24-hour service of meals and hot drinks to personnel engaged in fire-fighting, salvage and repair work at the Substation.

The bitter wintry weather and quick thaw made the job more difficult, but the way in which it was done was a major contribution to the speed in which the locality—an important one in the Liverpool City Centre—was put back on supply with a minimum of delay.

The job of Welfare Officer is often a thankless one done mostly behind the scenes, but it is a vital one to the efficiency of our industry, and never more so than on this occasion.



The reactor which caused all the damage, showing the portion which blew off its seating lying at the front of the transformer. Right: A corner of the substation showing some of the damage caused by fire, water and oil.

Public Speaking Finalists

MR. Peter W. Blackwell (Sales Representative, Chester District), and Miss Joan M. Williams (Service Centre demonstrator, Conway Valley District), will represent Manweb in the London National Final of the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition next month.

They were winners in the preliminary rounds held in Liverpool on 9th and 10th February, and each received a cheque for £10. Mr. J. B. Gibbons (sales representative No. 1 Sub-Area Headquarters), and Mrs. Jean W. Garner (Service Centre Assistant, Southport District) were the runners-up and each received a cheque for £5.

There were 13 competitors in the Men's section and seven in the Women's section, and the judges were Mr. J. A. Steadman (E.D.A.), Mr. T. R. Smith (Assistant Commercial Officer) and Mr. M. Thomas (Principal Assistant,

AUSTRALIA BOUND

After 21 years in the electricity supply industry in North Wales, Mr. Frederick Yarwood, of Welshpool, with his wife and three children, sailed from Southampton on 24th February for a new life in Australia.

Mr. Yarwood, a native of Ruabon, has been an electrician all his working life. Starting as an apprentice with the North Wales Power Co. at Wrexham in 1934, he stayed with them until 1939 when the war interrupted his career for four years with the R.A.F. in the Middle East.

Demobilised in 1946, he returned to Wrexham and

Accountancy). Mr. W. Parkinson, Mr. H. Strange and Mr. E. A. E. Colter shared the duties of chairmanship.

Competitors were given a choice of subjects on which to speak and could also select their own, and they also had to specify the type of audience being addressed.

"Atomic Power" and "The Influence of T.V. on our way of life" were the two most popular subjects, although Mr. Blackwell's winning entry related to the future of the country depending on the development and use of electrical resources.

Lack of adequate research into the subject lost many marks for competitors who chose to talk about "Atomic Power." The final marking was close and the level of talks was higher than in previous years. After presenting the cheques, the three judges gave a personal adjudication of each speaker.

continued with the North Wales Power Co. until Nationalisation when he was transferred to Welshpool in charge of a maintenance team.

Although he has secured a job with the Hydro-Electric Commission in Tasmania, Mr. Yarwood is not definite about whether he will remain in his trade when he gets out there. He and his family are proposing to make their home with relatives at Launceston.

Prior to leaving the Board's service, he was presented with a travelling clock by colleagues of the Oswestry District, Mr. F. O. Harber (District Engineer) making the presentation.

Public Speakers

Lady competitors in the E.D.A. Public Speaking with the winner Miss J. L. Williams (Llandudno) in the centre of the front row and Mrs. J. W. Garner (Southport) who was runner-up on her right.



Mr. P. W. Blackwell (Chester) the winner in the Men's Section is seated second from the left with Mr. J. B. Gibbons (Liverpool) runner-up on his right.



Messrs. T. R. Smith, M. Thomas and J. A. Steadman were judges and Mr. W. B. Parkinson was in the chair.



Gossip

Oh Yeah!

The following is culled from a recent Fault Report:—

"7.5-MVA Transformer control panel at . . . 33-kV substation L.D.C. had a high resistance connection on the zero adjustment, resulting in the AVE balancing in the low voltage position, but there was sufficient balance to maintain no voltage contacts closed. This resulted in the tap changer running to No. 15 position, causing excess system voltage."

Our only comment is that with experience like this the tap changer should be certain for the Melbourne Olympic Games British team.

* * *

Electrical Enterprises

Fred Emney of stage, television and film fame, brings his bulky humour to bear on behalf of immersion heaters and electric water heating generally in the latest E.D.A. film "Emney's Electrical Enterprise".

It is a 22-minute black and white feature, designed for the public and is for showing at meetings, clubs, exhibitions, etc.

The second of E.D.A.'s salesmanship talkiestrips "The need for knowledge No. 1" which gives you a clear cut yet light-hearted exposition of the first two of the "Five points of the sales interview" is also now available. It is in colour, runs for 13 minutes and has a commentary by J. A. Stedman of the E.D.A. staff.

Back to the Blitz

Pumpfields (Liverpool) last month was reminiscent of war time blitz scenes when an explosion occurred at the substation.

Firemen from the N.F.S. and later our own engineers and repair teams worked in Arctic conditions and there was a minimum delay in getting the area back on supply.

Canteen staffs from Love Lane and No. 1 Sub-Area were prominent figures, keeping a steady supply of hot drinks and food to all taking part in the operation.

* * *

Hampered

Calamity nearly overtook Mr. Philip Harben when he opened his three days of demonstrations for Manweb at Southport last month. Like all good cooks, Mr. Harben has his favourite utensils and these travel with him wherever he goes. (One of his most treasured possessions is a frying pan which he has used exclusively for omelettes during the past 20 years. This has never been cleaned with water during that period, so he has no fear of his omelettes sticking to the pan.)

On the day before he was due at Southport, the T.V. Cook gave a demonstration in Dublin, and somewhere between the two towns one of his hampers disappeared. This necessitated him borrowing several items for his first show at Southport. Fortunately, his favourite frying pan was not among the missing articles.

This month Mr. Harben will be demonstrating English cooking to audiences in the United States.

More Electrical Appliances

With the idea of increasing the use of electrical appliances in the homes of those employed in the industry, Mr. W. J. Forster (Commercial Officer, No. 1 Sub-Area) has hit upon a novel idea.

He has invited the members of No. 1 Local Advisory Committee and their wives to a demonstration of electrical cooking, cleaning and washing, in the Mecca Cafe, Ormond Street, Liverpool, on 21st March. Mr. P. Bregazzi (Manager) will preside, and Mrs. Ellison will be the demonstrator.

* * *

E.A.W. Celebrations

Local branches of the Electrical Association for Women have been active with anniversary celebrations during the past few weeks as will be seen from reports elsewhere in this issue.

The Liverpool branch takes pride of place with its Silver Jubilee whilst branches at Wallasey and Warrington "come of age".

Illustrating Manweb's close association with this enterprising organisation, the various celebration luncheons were attended by Mr. D. H. Kendon (Chairman), Mr. James Rankin (Deputy Chairman) and Mr. S. C. Harling (Manager, No. 2 Sub-Area.)

* * *

The Greatest Boon

Adjudicating at the E.D.A. Public Speaking Competition preliminary rounds in Liverpool last month, Mr. T. R. Smith (Assistant Chief Commercial Officer) said that personal research in villages of North Wales recently electrified, produced an interesting fact.

The greatest boon of electricity, after lighting, was, strangely enough, its power for ironing in the home. This, Mr. Smith reported, was the consensus of the housewives' opinion.

Few speakers in the competition ever mentioned this important aid to the domestic scene.

E.A.W. ANNIVERSARY

Electric floor-warming in the home was envisaged by Mr. D. H. Kendon (our Chairman), speaking at the 25th anniversary luncheon of the Liverpool branch of the Electrical Association for Women last month.

Electricity, he said, would continue to help in the development of the city and he thought they would see a great extension in the use of electricity for floor warming and for infra-red heating.

Speaking of his interest in the smokeless zone project, Mr. Kendon told the guests that the easiest way to do away with smoke and dust on the mantelpiece was to use electricity.

Mr. P. Briggs (deputy Divisional Controller, North-West, Merseyside and North Wales Division), said that when the association was formed, 4,000,000 kilowatts of electricity were being used. Now, the number was 22,000,000. He thought the aims of the association—to promote better understanding of electricity in the home, encouraging housecraft, etc.—were just as appropriate to-day as when the association was founded 31 years ago.

Miss Rita Brown (Mr. Kendon's private secretary at Love Lane) was presented with a cheque for £50 from Lady Kilmuir, on behalf of members in recognition of her honorary secretaryship of the branch since its inception.

ELECTRICITY *and its role* **in PRODUCTIVITY**

THE Stockton Heath County Secondary School made a very suitable venue for the second annual conference arranged by No. 2 Local Advisory Committee on 28th January. This year the theme was "Productivity" and a variety of interesting points were raised during the day's talks and discussions.

Mr. S. C. Harling (Manager No. 2 Sub-Area) presided and among the visitors was Mr. D. H. Kendon (Chairman of the Board) who gave the opening address. Other speakers were Mr. M. M. Parker (Secretary of the Board) whose topic was "Joint Consultation and Productivity" and Mr. W. Gilchrist (Chief Commercial Officer) who spoke on "Electricity as an aid to Modern Production".

For the final item—the open forum—the Brains Trust consisted of Mr. Harling, Mr. Parker, Mr. Gilchrist, Mr. E. A. E. Colter (Establishments Officer) and the following No. 2 Sub-Area officials, Mr. B. Dixon (Engineer), Mr. R. B. Morris (Secretary), Mr. K. S. Leach (Accountant) and Mr. H. Breckell (Commercial Officer).

In welcoming the delegates Mr. Harling said that at their

first conference they had dealt with Organisation and Methods, and this time they had Efficiency and Productivity on the agenda. "Productivity" he said, "has sometimes been thought to apply only to industrial establishments, but I can assure you this is not so, and I hope that our speakers and films will help to show you how productivity can be implemented in our Industry".

Spreading Capital Charges

In his talk Mr. Kendon gave a broad survey of the industry to embrace past achievements and future trends.

In the past seven years, he said, three million additional consumers had been added nationally (which corresponded to three new Boards) and sales of electricity had increased by

50 per cent (which corresponded to seven new boards). At present Area Boards did only about one-tenth of all contracting work, but if they earned the reputation of being able to do all work in connection with electricity supply, this proportion would increase rapidly.

Turning to sales of electricity, Mr. Kendon said we should go all out to induce a greater domestic use of electricity. Such a course would spread the capital charges over a greater number of units and so tended to keep down the cost to domestic, industrial and all other users.

"Close Co-operation"

On the subject of "Joint Consultation and Productivity", Mr. Parker said that within the terms of reference of the



machinery for Joint Consultation were measures designed to improve efficiency in the operation of the services of the Board. In normal circumstances, improved efficiency included improved productivity. He thought that it was no exaggeration to state that the origin of formal Joint Consultation lay in the need to step up productivity and to maintain efficiency and good staff relations.

Mr. Parker then went on to outline the progress made by Joint Consultation in this industry. In the N.J.A.C.'s first year (commencing April, 1949), every recommendation made originated from a reference made to the Council by the Central Authority. Since then there had been a steady increase in the recommendations arising from points submitted from District Councils and L.A.C.'s.

Then there was the Suggestion Scheme which had commenced at the end of 1952, and had produced 248 suggestions from Board employees and 201 from Divisional sources. Of the Board suggestions, 86 had received awards.

Another activity was the Educational Incentive Scheme, under which payments totalling £728 were made to 272 employees during the last financial year. There were also schemes for the training of jointers, apprentice engineering draughtsmen and supervisors and finally there was the Central Authority's Scholarship Scheme.

All this showed that machinery existed to enable everyone to play an interesting part in the running of the organisation. As Kipling put it:—

*It ain't the guns nor armaments
Nor the sums that you can pay;
It's the close co-operation
That makes 'em win the day.
It ain't the individual
Nor the army as a whole;
It's the everlasting teamwork
Of every blooming soul.*

Conserving Energy

Increases in production were closely related to increases in electricity supply said Mr. Gilchrist in opening his talk. It had been said that if the rise in production continued on the present scale, our energy requirements would continue to increase by 2½ per cent per annum. This might soon lead to a position where the demand for coal exceeded the utmost capacity of the coal mines. The short-term answer to this would be the importation of more oil, and the long-term one would be the development of atomic energy.

It was important that industrialists should save energy in all its forms—coal, gas, coke, oil or electricity—and there were two methods of doing this: (1) by retaining the present fuel and improving the plant using that particular fuel or (2) by using alternative and more economic fuels. It was in the latter course that electricity could play a most important part.

This country was the first to develop steam motive power, but today the majority of this had been supplanted by electric drive. In his opinion the next step was to transfer much of the steam process work to electricity, using modern methods of heat transfer. These included resistance heating, arc and electrode furnaces and infra-red and induction heating.

Open Forum

The Questions and answers at the Open Forum are given below:—

Q There is a general feeling that a question put forward to the Panel is unlikely to be answered if in any way embarrassing. This is a regular excuse for lack of interest. Can we be assured any question will be answered or a reason given for not being able to answer it?

A Mr. Morris wondered if the writer was prompted by the fact that the questions were asked for in advance. That procedure was adopted because many of the questions required research to answer properly. "I can say," he added, "that every question submitted to this Conference—and to the previous one—has been presented and answered."

Q In order to improve the speed and efficiency of office organisation and methods, have the Board made any advances towards the application of Electronic Digital Computers to any systems for functions at present undertaken by the Board?

If so (1) How long will it be before Computers are installed?
(2) In the event of a fairly large number of staff becoming surplus to requirements, due to phenomenal speeds attainable in work output, what would happen to them?

A Mr. Leach said the Board had contacted three of the biggest manufacturers of these machines and had placed an order for a P.C.C. machine. So far the manufacturers had made only one prototype model, but delivery would start this year. The Board might get delivery of theirs at the end of 1957. Probably the computer would not go to No. 2 Sub-Area, because the machine was a logical development of punch card accounting—which was not operated in their Sub-Area.

With regard to the second part of the question, from experience gained in the United States of America, it would appear that the introduction of computers did not result in a significant reduction of staff.

Q In the opinion of the Panel, do they consider that in order to retain in the industry,



Members of the Brains Trust who were subjected to a barrage of questions. From left to right they are Messrs. E. A. E. Colter, W. Gilchrist, M. M. Parker, S. C. Harling, H. Breckell, K. S. Leach, B. Dixon and R. B. Morris.

administrative staff who have undertaken an approved course of study under the Incentives and Awards Scheme and obtained a Professional Qualification, but who cannot immediately be promoted, whether it would be beneficial in the long run, for the Board to pay an additional increment in recognition of the qualification?

A Mr. Parker said in this Industry an employee was paid the rate for the job, and when additional qualifications were obtained they should be regarded as a means of obtaining a better job.

Q At the time when capital expenditure is restricted, should the available money be spent on improving supply to existing consumers in preference to providing supply to premises not yet connected?

A Mr. Dixon pointed out that under the Electricity Act of 1947, all Boards must provide a supply to certain types of premises, so expenditure had to be reduced in other directions. Non-operation work was the first to be reduced.

Q Is it not considered that MANWEB would be a smoother running organisation if each of us was given an opportunity to know more of what the other person in other Departments is doing—his problems, etc.?

A Mr. Gilchrist thought it was of little value to say "I will tell you of my problems if you will solve mine". The first thing to do was to solve our own problems, but where our job impinged on another fellow's, there was certainly no harm in finding out what his difficulties were.

Q Could a printed "Application Form" be used by employees meeting with accidents outside hours of employment, this form taking the place of letters of application to the Area Manager for remuneration in such circumstances?

A "The short answer is yes" said Mr. Colter, but that still posed the question, "Is it the wise and sensible thing to do?" Bringing everything down to the lowest common denominator was open to doubt, and in this particular instance he thought it was far better to let each case be considered on its merits as is done under the existing system.

Q The production and distribution of electricity is a national monopoly. Will the Panel explain the functions of:—

- (a) Consumers' Consultative Councils, and
- (b) External Audit Department in the regulation of:—
 - (i) Cost to the consumer, and
 - (ii) Profits

and so guard against the high cost and excessive profits often associated with absence of competition.

A Mr. Gilchrist explained that the Council was there to protect the interests of consumers and to offer them a court of appeal which was outside the Board. "As far as our own Council is concerned" he added, "I think it is an organisation which has helped both the Board and the consumers".

With regard to part (b) the External Audit Department checked on the form of the Boards' accounts to ensure that they were kept according to the best commercial practice.

Q Do the facilities offered by the Board to Electrical Trades with regard to further education apply to all other Trades within the Industry (re: time off to attend day classes)?

A Mr. Colter pointed out that there were two avenues along which one could obtain further education—the Incentives and Awards Scheme and the Manual Workers' Training Scheme. Under the first anyone who had studied for two consecutive years and had attained certain educational qualifications could apply for time off to attend day classes—providing that the course was one which was likely to assist him in his career with the Board. This included trades other than electrical, and anyone studying for his Higher National or City and Guilds Certificates

in electrical engineering, civil engineering or building, was entitled to make application for day release to continue his studies.

So far as the Manual Workers' Training Scheme was concerned, this was designed to meet the ever increasing demand for qualified electrical engineers. In order to meet the immediate demand as far as possible, it was decided to comb the industry for people with any background of technical training. This served the two-fold task of giving our own staff the first opportunities of promotion and at the same time was likely to produce technically qualified staff in less time than it would take to train them from scratch.

Q Do the Panel think that "Equal Pay" for women is a good thing for the Industry?



There was plenty for the delegates to discuss during tea, which was taken in the spacious canteen of the School.

A "I take it that the questioner means equal pay for equal work" said Mr. Morris. "If so, that is nothing new, and has been accepted in this Industry for the past 35 years." After pointing out that Manweb always graded the appointment and not the individual, Mr. Morris added that equal pay for equal work was a measure of social justice which had to come, and he could see no harm coming to the Electricity Supply Industry through its application.

Q Why is no opportunity afforded to Tradesmen when they apply for positions in Showrooms?

A Mr. Breckell said that every opportunity was afforded to tradesmen when they applied for jobs in Showrooms or outside.

WINNING WINDOWS

Our attention has been drawn to comments in the January issue of *Contact* on the Manweb Christmas Window Display Competition. In it we said that Chester Service Centre had won the Eccles Shield in 1949. This was not in fact so, as officially the Eccles Shield was not presented until 1950 and was then won by Northwich Service Centre.

We note that the Service Centres in No. 2 Sub-Area have won awards in the competition every year since 1950 and we publish their impressive record with our congratulations:—

1950 Eccles Shield —Northwich
 1951 Eccles Shield —St. Helens
 1952 Eccles Shield —Northwich
 1952 Oliver Shield —Runcorn
 1953 Eccles Shield —Warrington
 1954 Rankin Shield—Knutsford
 1955 Rankin Shield—Knutsford
 1955 Oliver Shield —Widnes

At the present time, No. 2 Sub-Area had at least five former tradesmen in Showrooms and eight were outside representatives. "We welcome applications from tradesmen for those type of posts" he added.

Q Could consideration be given to the possibility of free or cheaper electricity for all Electricity Employees (i.e. Householders or those in board residence)?

A Mr. Parker said this question had been very carefully considered at the highest level. The position was, however, that the Electricity Act precluded free or cheaper electricity to employees, so that even if the Board wished to grant such concessions, they would be unable to do so.

CREWE DISTRICT DINNER

Queen's Hotel, Crewe, was the scene of this year's Crewe District Staffs' Annual Dinner and Dance on the 27th January when a company of 71 spent a very enjoyable evening.

Mr. P. Blunt (Sub-Area Engineer), and Mrs. Blunt, Mr. A. D. Hegan (District Manager), Mr. E. T. L. Jones (District Engineer), Mr. E. Corfield (Vauxhall Construction Dept. Engineer), and Mrs. Corfield were amongst those present, and an excellent meal was followed by dancing with Mr. D. Morton as M.C.

The Committee responsible for the arrangements was: Messrs. E. Leighton (Chairman), A. T. K. Knott (Secretary), J. Burgess (Treasurer), Miss G. Baxendale, Messrs. W. Jones, H. Evans, T. Watthey, W. Dockery, E. Hollinshead, E. Pegg, J. B. Thomas, and D. Morton.



After an excellent meal a group at the Crewe District Sports Club's dinner and dance wait for the music to start.



Mr. A. T. K. Knott (secretary) and a group of officials in an after dinner pose.



Doing the hokey-cokey at the Crewe District's dinner dance.

No. 2 - The Monday Machine

By B. EWNAM

"It's the wife," Joe explained. "She's moaning again about her back being broken."

"I know," Binks said sympathetically. "Working-over-a-hot-stove-all-day sort of thing?"

"It's not the hot stove she's complaining about," Joe said. "It's the hot boiler. The washing."

"The washing?" Binks said thoughtfully. "That's interesting."

"Says it's a soul-destroying thankless job and if I tried it I'd see what she meant. *You* know. Makes me fed up," Joe went on, grumbling. "I've told her. I said, what about all these wonderful new soap powders they're advertising all the time with queer names like "Drudge" and "Slush" and that. *They're* supposed to make washing child's play."

"And what did she say?"

"She said so it is if the child weighs about eighteen stone and has the strength of an ox, so don't be daft and I said who's daft and she said you're talking like an advertisement hoarding and I said that's better than looking like the back of one and she said don't you talk to me like that Joe Perkins and I said I'll talk how I like and she said if my mother—"

"Yes, yes," said Binks hurriedly. "I understand. The implication is that she doesn't like doing the washing. Well, my lad, what do you intend to do about it?"

"What do *I* intend to do?" asked Joe, surprised. "Why, nothing. It's her job and she'd better get used to the idea."

"Tut, tut," said Binks reprovingly, "is this the loving husband speaking? The man who promised the girl when he was courting her that those lily-white hands would never be soiled with work?"

"My hands aren't lily-white," Joe said looking down at them.

"Hers, I mean, clot," said Binks. "You don't really like the idea of your wife's back breaking, do you?"

"Well, no," Joe admitted, "but there are such things as laundries to send washing to."

"Laundries," said Binks, musingly. "Sleeveless shirts minus buttons that don't fit you now anyway. No, Joe. Keep the washing at home if you can."

"Alright," said Joe. "I'm easy. Keep the washing at home. But if that means listening to a dirge every Monday morning with her mother dragged into it and—"

"No, no," said Binks, looking keen. "There is a way to make washing easier for your wife. Much easier, in fact—"

"Here, just a minute," said Joe firmly. "Before you go any further. I know what *you're* going to say."

"You do?"

"Yes, You're going to tell me to buy a washing machine, aren't you?"

"Well, yes, I was," said Binks, deflated.

"Well that's out!" Joe said decisively. "That's *right* out. Ho, ho," he went on bitterly, "we'll be living in a ruddy factory soon

instead of a house. Fridges, cookers, washing machines—why, they'll be having a machine next for bringing you a cup of tea in bed."

Binks said interestedly: "Funny you should mention that because as a matter of fact there is—"

"I'm not interested!" Joe said quickly. "I'm not having a washing machine in my house and that's flat!"

Binks sighed: "Same old reason, eh, Joe? Money."

Joe said weakly: "Well they do cost quite a bit, don't they? I mean, I've seen them advertised and they cost anything up to a hundred pounds."

Binks shook his head sadly. "Joe, you've got to cure yourself of this mercenary attitude towards the important things in life. You're thinking that the money you'd spend on a washing machine would be going on a luxury—some frivolous item of furniture. But a washing machine isn't a luxury at all. It's a necessity—in your case especially. Think of your wife's back. You don't want it to break, do you? If she had a washing machine she wouldn't be able to complain at all and she'd be lost for something to nag you about. Just think—you'd be spared all that talk of what her mother would say. No, Joe," Binks said decisively, "a washing machine is no luxury for you."

Joe said: "You're talking like an advertisement hoarding now." Then he paused and added slowly: "Oh, well, perhaps you're right. How much do you have to pay for one?"

"Well," said Binks briskly, "as you said they can cost quite a lot of money. But there's one excellent model that would suit your wife

perfectly and it only costs thirty-five to forty pounds including tax. You get it, Joe. The money won't be wasted."

"Thirty-five pounds?" Joe was thinking hard. Then he said: "What if—well I mean—say I don't have the ready cash—"

"Oh, you can get it on the hire purchase, alright," Binks said assuringly. "Very reasonable, too."

"Mmm," said Joe. Then he said virtuously: "I mean, after all, *she* can't complain, can she, 'cause I'm buying it for *her*. She was the one who moaned about our old boiler."

"Exactly, Joe. You're a very thoughtful husband. Kind, considerate, generous, good-natured—"

"And," Joe added darkly, "if her mother should turn up again she'll end up in the ruddy machine herself."

HOUSECRAFT

The thirty-eighth E.A.W. Certificate Examination in Electrical Housecraft for demonstrators and saleswomen resulted in 67 candidates qualifying for the Certificate. Among them were two Manweb representatives—Miss Joan Ellis and Miss Shirley Bladon of Southport.

The total number of Certificate holders is now 2,375.

OBITUARY

The death took place on 4th February of Mr. Fred Rimmer, a fitter at Pumpfields garage, at the age of 60 years. He had served in the industry for 20 years, prior to nationalisation with Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department, and is survived by a widow and one daughter.

BREVITIES

Mr. A. F. Vidler (Assistant Section Engineer, St. Helens District) has been appointed Third Assistant Engineer (Operation and Maintenance) with No. 4 Sub-Area at Wrexham, and on 22nd February, in the Mains Office, Carlton Street, St. Helens, he was presented with a tray and tea set by Mr. H. C. Barr (District Engineer) on behalf of colleagues and workmen.

Mr. J. F. Morris (Clerk in the Financial Dept. No. 3 Sub-Area, Chester) has passed the final examination of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants.

Mr. T. V. Lironi (No. 3 Sub-Area Engineer) leaves the country in April for an appointment with Messrs. Crippen, Wright (Engineering) Ltd., consulting engineers, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

A double presentation took place in the Mains Records Drawing Office, Hatton Garden, when **Mr. C. Pryor** and **Mr. H. Kinsella** left to take up appointments with Shell Mex and English Electric Co. Ltd.

Best wishes for a quick recovery to **Mr. H. L. Palin** (Portmadoc) and **Mr. L. W. Thomas** (Pwllheli) who are both patients at Liverpool hospitals.

Mr. T. Harris (No. 1 Sub-Area Headquarters Commercial Dept.) has passed the intermediate examination, Section 'B', of the Certified and Corporate Secretaries.

Congratulations to **Miss Joan Stead** (No. 1 Sub-Area Headquarters Secretarial Dept.) who has announced her engagement to **Mr. Len Hutchings** (Central District, No. 1 Sub-Area).

Miss Shirley Bladon (Trainee Demonstrator, Southport District) has been successful in passing the E.A.W. Electrical Housecraft Examination.

Mr. R. W. Smith (Purchasing Department, Board Headquarters) has accepted an appointment as Assistant Purchasing Officer with the Glamorgan County Council at Brigend and takes up his duties this month.

Mr. E. A. Wharton (Commercial Assistant, Dolgelley) has been presented with a son, Alexander, born on 11th January 1956.

Mr. Merion Rees (Linesman's Mate, Dolgelley) has commenced his National Service, and prior to his departure was presented with a leather case of hair brushes by Mr. A. Jones (Assistant Section Engineer) on behalf of his colleagues.

Miss M. Allison (Board Headquarters) has passed Grade I of the Typewriting examination of the Royal Society of Arts.

Mr. David J. Williams (son of Mr. J. L. Williams, District Manager at Aberystwyth) a pupil at the King's School, Chester, has been awarded a Welsh foundation scholarship in English at Jesus College, Oxford, and will enter college in 1958 after he has completed his National Service.

Mr. R. D. Clark (Installation Inspection Engineer, Warrington) was presented with a daughter, Jane Allison, on 22nd January 1956.

Mr. J. A. Seabury (Assistant Section Engineer at Howley, Warrington) has announced his engagement to Miss Beryl Poole of Hartford.

Mr. G. W. Rennie (Assistant Chief Accountant at Area Board Headquarters) has been appointed Deputy Chief Accountant with the Atomic Energy Commission, Industrial Group Headquarters at Risley, and takes up his new duties this month.

Mr. R. D. Jones and **Mr. H. S. Wood** (Apprentice Electrical Fitters in the North Wirral District) have been awarded Junior Study Prizes under the Board's scheme.

Mr. W. H. Royden (White-chapel Service Centre) became the father of a son on 4th February.

Mr. G. H. Parry (Cashier, No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters), is standing as an Independent candidate in the local government bye-election for the Wats Dyke Ward, Wrexham.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. Richard G. Allen (Meter Reader at Howley) retired in January last, after 36 years in the industry. At a presentation made to him by Mr. K. S. Leach (Sub-Area Accountant) he was the recipient of two Dutch pipes and tobacco pouch, with the best wishes of the staff for his future welfare.

Miss E. Murray (Accounts Section, Southport District) retired from the service of the Board on 8th February, and was presented with a plinth type table lamp and a beautiful marcasite brooch, by her colleagues. The presentation was made by Mr. H. Davies (District Manager) and Mr. W. T. Gann (former District Manager) also attended the ceremony. Miss Murray, who had a total of 43

years' service with the Electricity Supply Industry, commenced her service with the Birkdale District Electricity Supply Company in June 1913. She subsequently transferred to the Southport Corporation Electricity Department in 1941, and upon nationalisation joined the Accounts Section.

Mr. Ishmael Roberts (Substation attendant at Fourcrosses Substation) retired on 11th February after 25 years' service in the industry with the North Wales Power Co. and the Board. He was presented with a clock, which had been subscribed to by his many friends at Portmadoc, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Pwllheli depots.

In honour of the occasion Mr. A. Ellis (Section Engineer, Portmadoc Operation) has composed these verses:—

Cyftwynedig i Mr. Ishmael Roberts,
Ty Egan, Chwilog. Ar ei ymddeliad
o MANWEB Substation, Fourcrosses.
Chwefror 1956.

Gwelais ei feic liw dydd
Ar ffordd yr ucheldir iach,
Yn mynd tua Sub Four Ex.
Yn brydlon ddechrau'r shift fach,
Yntau mor hapus a ffri
Wrth basio pob cerbyd yn slic,
Bob amser yn barod i newid shift
Er helpu Tom Evans neu Dic.

Gwelais ef yn y Sub
A'i bensal yn ei law,
Cymryd readings bob hanner awr
Heb fethu trwy eira a glaw,
Yntau fel pennaeth mewyn
Ymysg y meters di-stop
Ei fyseidd yn taro ar wyneb 'Four Two'
Nes gyrru y nodwydd i'r top.

Ond amser retirio a ddaeth,
A chwith ei golli o'r gang,
Felly fe ddaethom ynghyd
I'w anfon i ffwrdd hefo bang,
Gobeithio caiff eto hir oes
Ac iechyd am lawer blwydd,
Bu'n was da i'r MANWEB a'r N.W.P.
Rhown iddo ein diolch yn rhwydd.

PORTHMADOC

—ELLIS

No. 4 Sub-Area A.D.S.



ESTELLE JACK



JOYCE WYNN



GRENVILLE ROBERTS



LESLIE ROBERTS



MWYNDEG WILLIAMS



MARY BOWYER JONES



ARTHUR EDWARDS



KENNETH DANIEL

"THEY WALK ALONE"

No. 4 Sub-Area Headquarters Amateur Dramatic Society last month presented the 3-Act play, "They Walk Alone", by Max Cato, at Wrexham, Rhos, Mold, Coedpoeth and Rhostyllen.

The cast was: Arthur Edwards (Revenue Dept.), *Robert Stanforth*; Joyce Wynn (Comptometers), *Bess Stanforth*; Estelle Jack (Secretarial), *Emmy Bawdine*; Grenville Roberts (Welfare Dept.), *Larry Tallent*; Leslie Roberts (Drawing Office), *Saul Trevithick*; Kenneth Daniel (Cashier's Dept.), *Mr. Tallent*; Mary Bowyer Jones (Drawing Office), *Julie Tallent*.

Production was by Kenneth Daniel (Cashier's Dept.) and Mwyndeg Williams (Cost Dept.). The Stage Manager was Connie Jones (Secretarial); the stage assistants were Joan Clegg and Glyn Jones (Drawing Office) and the lighting was arranged by Arthur D. Quarmby (Commercial Dept.).

As has been customary for the past few years, the Society performed for "expenses only", and the substantial profits are devoted to various charitable organisations in the Sub-Area.

The show at the Miner's Institute, Rhos, on 22nd February, was the Society's entry in the 1956 C.E.A. Drama Festival, and a public adjudication was given by Mr. John Waddington, a well-known B.B.C. Television producer.

DID YOU GUESS?

The answer to last month's puzzle was: a facsimile of doodlings found on a blotter after an interview at Love Lane.

GAME TO THE LAST

We have been informed that the following notice has been exhibited in a certain business establishment—which, we hasten to point out, has no connection whatever with Manweb:—

Instructions in Case of Death of Employees whilst on these Premises

It has been brought to the notice of the Management that some employees have been dying for no good reason at all.

Furthermore, the said employees are refusing to fall over after they are dead.

Where it can be proved that the employee is being held up by a bench or counter, desk or any other kind of support which is the property of the Management, a period of ten days grace will be allowed.

In all cases the following procedure must be followed.

If, after several hours, it is noticed that any employee has not moved or changed position, the departmental head will investigate.

(Note: Because of the highly sensitive nature of our employees and the close resemblance between death and their normal working attitude, the investigation will be made quietly so as to avoid waking the operator, if it so happens that he or she is asleep.)

If after several inspections some doubt exists as to the true condition of the employee, the offering of a pay envelope is an infallible test. If the reaction is negative, i.e. no rapid extension of a clutching hand, it may be assumed that the person is dead.

(Note: In some cases the instinct to extend the hand is so strongly developed that the spasmodic (clutcher reflexes) action may respond to stimulus even after death.)

In all cases sworn statement by the dead person must be entered on the special form for the purpose. Fifteen (15) copies will be made out and circulated as follows:

*Three copies to Establishment Section
Two copies to Accounts Department
Two copies to deceased*

The remaining eight copies will be lost in the Registry files.

SOUTHPORT BOXER



Mr. Percy James (Southport District) who is making a name for himself in professional boxing circles in the North West.

FOOTBALL FAME

Two members of the No. 4 Sub-Area staff are achieving fame in Welsh amateur football circles this season. Mr. Harold Marsden (Legacy) who plays for Rhos Rangers at outside left, has won a Welsh amateur international cap, and is at present having a month's trial with the First Division club Bolton Wanderers.

Mr. Brian Griffiths (Commercial Department, Rhostyllen), an inside left, who is also a Welsh amateur international, has played for Wrexham in the Third Division (North) on several occasions.

CLUB OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting of the North Wales and District Sports and Social Club held at No. 4 Sub-Area Office, Rhostyllen, on 16th February, the following were elected as officers for the coming year:—

President: Mr. R. N. Pegg;
Vice-Presidents: Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. J. W. Trimble, Mr. P. Blunt, Mr. R. M. Broadfoot, Mr. O. L. Ritchie, Mr. Faraday Davies;
Chairman: Mr. P. Blunt; *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. J. L. Thomas;
Secretary: Mr. J. G. Roberts;
Treasurer: Mr. K. Daniel; *Hon. Auditors:* Messrs. T. G. Parry and A. Mason.

'SNIPPET-SNAG'

Dear Sir,

Page 39 of February *Contact*—I noticed a tip re the lining of ladies' aprons, to make them two-way or dual purpose. I assume that the first use of same, might entail a few smears, stains, or grease spots, etc., but I can't imagine the comments if these were to be transferred to some 'charming middle-aged bulge', and seen by all during a social evening, when the 'hostess' had discarded the 'apron'.

Yours truly,

S. MEAKIN

(Meter Dept., Lister Drive)

RHYL SNOOKERED

In the semi-finals of the North Wales Nalgo Snooker Cup competition, Rhyl's Electricity team were defeated by Denbighshire. The scores were (Manweb names second): I. Roberts, 72, Tom Hughes 52; J. Threlfall 27, E. Evans 66; T. Edwards 59, G. I. Williams 39; E. Rogers 78, T. R. Jones 32.

IN THE FINALS

In the Nalgo North Western District Winter Sports Competition, Liverpool Electricity have reached the finals in two competitions for the first time in the history of the Branch.

The Billiards team had a resounding win over Chester City in the semi-final at Thingwall Road last month. A good lead was built up by Messrs. Wardle and Young (Derby House) and was consolidated by Don Carmichael (Lister Drive) and Arthur Cowden played a safety game to ensure success.

The semi-final of the Table Tennis was a battle of wits with Cheshire County. As anticipated, our success hinged upon Arthur Taylor (Love Lane) and he made no mistake in beating Bill Devine and Norman Jones, two Cheshire

County players. Willie Gibson at No. 5 was also a tower of strength and managed to win his two games and with Norman Brooks winning one of his, we led 5-1 with four to play.

Arnold Longden made no mistake in beating County's No. 3 and so Cheshire County threw in the towel at 6-1. This was a magnificent win by the Electricity Branch and if they play as well in the final they are assured of success.

The finals this year are being played at Blackburn on Saturday, 10th March.

Inter-departmental competitions started at Thingwall Road last month and many interesting games are taking place between teams from Hatton Garden, Derby House, Board H.Q., Lister Drive and Division.

They're in the Table Tennis Finals

The all-conquering Liverpool Nalgo Table Tennis team which has reached the final of the North Western area: *standing:* Messrs. A. Langden, R. Adams, W. Gibson; *seated:* Messrs. N. Brooks, A. Taylor and A. Vickers.



Speedy Accountants

GEOF. DUKE can win the G.T.T. race with a speed of more than 100 miles per hour. Donald Campbell rides the water at 204 miles per hour.

These are records which thrill the crowds and delight the heart of the sporting public.

The Accountant's mind, however, runs along more mundane channels. His thoughts on his little (large?) world are always prefaced by "how much?" How much saved, how much does it cost, how much can you reduce the stocks by? There are occasions, however, when "how soon" enters into his vocabulary. How soon can the stores be issued? How soon is next pay day? (why pin this on the Accounts)? How soon can the accounts be completed? How soon can the bills be got out?

This latter is not a cricket term, it does not relate to the batting side. It relates—wails of chagrin from the consumer—to the speed at which the consumer's meter can be read and the account sent asking him to pay his debts to the Board. We've said to the consumer's chagrin, we also say to the accountant's delight.

No. 1 Sub-Area Accounts (Derby House) has beaten all comers, by achieving the feat of reducing the interval between the reading of the meter and rendering (sending out) the account to a mere *three days*. We think it is time to congratulate No. 1 Billing Section in the Accountant's department, so take off your hats to the meter readers, collectors, billing clerks, machine operators and accountants who have achieved this record.

Editor's Note: We wish these fellows wouldn't send in our bill so quickly and then worry us to pay it the minute we've got it.

What Happens

Just what is involved in this operation of meter reading, billing and collection is illustrated stage by stage below and gives some idea of the administrative machinery required to maintain such a speed of turn-over.

It is indeed a tribute to Mr. A. M. Riley and his staff at Derby House that this work can be done in three days.

Outside

Meter Reader takes out book containing meter sheets.

Reads meter and enters consumption.

Returns meter book to office.

Office

Consumption checked.

Consumption calculated.

(a) at 4½d. per unit;

(b) at 1d. per unit.

Bills addressed by addressing machine.

Meter reading sheets and bills married to consumer's Ledger Card.

Bills, meter sheets and ledger cards passed to a/c. machine room.

Machine operators using keyboard accounting machines produce bill, enter total on ledger card and prepare a summary sheet in one operation.

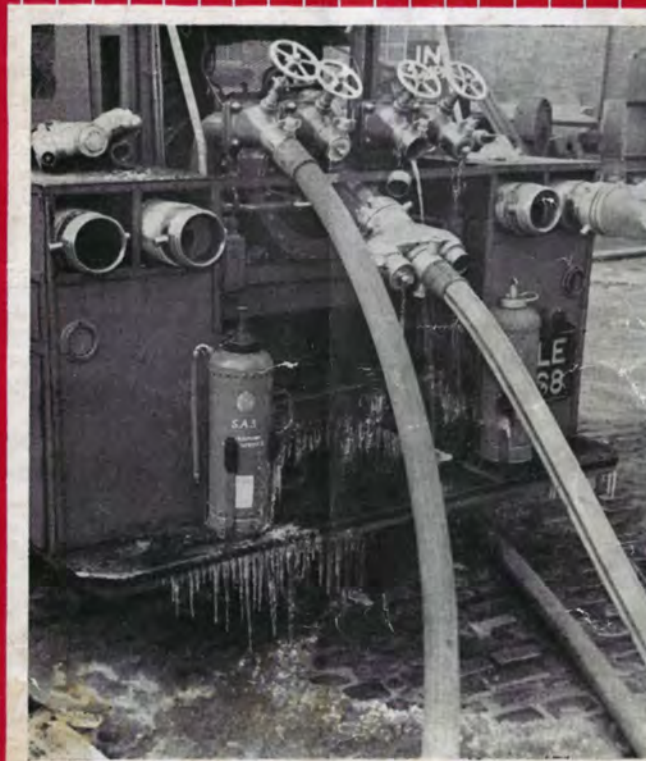
Summary sheets are assessed for statistical purposes.

Bills and summary sheets proved for arithmetical summary.

Bills folded and enveloped.

Despatched for either hand or postal delivery.

Contact



COLD WORK AT THE FIRE (See page 58)

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MANWEB

THREEPENCE